GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5949
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
DECLINING WATER LEVEL
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a): whether the water level is fast declining in those areas also where old crop cycle is followed and farming is carried out by erecting boundary around the fields;

(b) if so, whether the Karmets Tap area in Narshing Pur district of Madhya Pradeshwhich is the most fertile land in Asia is also facing this problem;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to promote the traditional farming by erecting boundary around the fields to recharge the water level in the area; and

(e) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): Central Ground Water Board is monitoring the ground water level of thecountry through a net-work of about 15,000 monitoring stations. According to the information, the water table in part of the Narsinghpur district is declining including Karmets Tap area situated in the Chawarpatha Block. The water table is declining in Chawarpatha Blaock as a result of drawal of ground-water through tubewells and open wells irrigating about 32,000 hectare area. The traditional crops, namely, Jawar, Arhar, Moong and Urad are being grown apart from Soyabean crop which has been introduced during last two decades. The Soybean crop has replaced some of the traditional crops.

(d) & (e): State Government has not proposed the traditional farming by erecting boundary around the fields for the percolation, as the percolation in black cotton soil is the least. For groundwater recharge, the measures such as, water harvesting structures, percolation tanks etc. have been proposed under various Central and State Sector programmes.